



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

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News Release

Clarence H. Carter, Director

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DES hires Office of Child Welfare Investigations Chief to oversee new Investigative Unit

PHOENIX – The Department of Economic Security (DES) welcomes Detective Gregory McKay as its new Office of Child Welfare Investigations Chief. The creation of the Office of Child Welfare Investigations (OCWI) comes as a direct recommendation of Governor Brewer’s Child Safety Task Force.

“There can be no higher priority than the protection of Arizona children under State supervision,” said Governor Brewer. “So, I’m excited that Detective McKay is bringing more than two decades of law enforcement experience to this critical mission as his new investigative unit focuses its attention upon Arizona’s most severe cases of child abuse and neglect. The challenges remain significant, but the addition of Detective McKay and his team is great news for child safety in Arizona.”

McKay joins DES through a partnership between the agency and the City of Phoenix Police Department, where he has worked for the past 17 years. During his tenure with Phoenix PD, McKay has worked as a homicide detective and investigator for crimes against children. He brings more than 20 years of law enforcement experience to the Department.

“Greg’s diligence to find justice for children is what made him the right person for this job,” said Director Clarence Carter. “He exemplifies DES’ commitment to child safety and brings with him the tools and connections needed to bring together the social work aspect of protecting children with the law enforcement side.”

McKay will oversee 29 staff members in the Office of Child Welfare Investigations. The new office will coordinate with statewide local law enforcement and Child Protective Services (CPS) case managers on cases of severe child abuse and/or neglect from which criminal allegations or charges may arise.

The Task Force was co-chaired by Director Carter and Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery, who both played an important role in advocating for the creation of the new office.

"I congratulate Director Carter on an excellent choice for the first position in staffing OCWI," remarked Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery. "Greg McKay is a highly respected and dedicated professional well positioned to help ensure Arizona's children are protected. I look forward to partnering with Detective McKay and Director Carter in continuing to improve our child protection system."

"I am eager to take on this new endeavor because as a long-time law enforcement officer, I have a passion for helping people, especially children," said McKay. "The responsibility for keeping children safe doesn't fall just on DES or simply law enforcement. When we work together, we are more effective at not just making sure our children are safe, but also ensuring that those who harm children are held accountable."

The Office of Child Welfare Investigations was authorized by the passage of HB 2721 in the last legislative session and will go into effect on December 31, 2012.

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